

REMARKS

In response to the above-identified Office Action, the Applicant submits the below remarks and respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks.

The Examiner objected to the specification and requested amendment to reflect the correct reference to the related applications. The Applicant submits that Application Serial No. 08/798,606 is revived and proof of the Granted Petition to Revive is submitted herewith. The Applicant amended the specification to reflect that Application Serial No. 08/722,898 is now U.S. Patent No. 5,764,916. No new matter is added.

The Examiner rejected the claims under judicially created doctrine of double patenting. The Applicant hereby files a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant has amended the claims to overcome this rejection. No new matter is added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13, 15-16, and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,793,365 (hereinafter Tang). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 14, and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tang in view of U.S. Patent 5,956,038 (hereinafter Rekimoto) issued September 1999. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set out below.

The Applicant contends that the references alone or the combination of the references does not teach or suggest all limitations of claim 1, or the other independent claims of the present application. The Applicant's arguments shall be presented with respect to claim 1. However, these comments are applicable to the other independent claims of the present application, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider these comments and remarks when reviewing the other independent claims for allowability.

Tang does not teach or suggest streaming media and messages in an information processing system from a switching mechanism to a plurality of user nodes, said user nodes having similar communication capabilities. Tang teaches a system providing a computer user interface enabling access to distributed workgroup members. In the system of Tang a user double clicks on an icon associated with another user and the system attempts to contact the other user. Upon contacting the requested user, the system initiates a communication system, wherein the communication server selects the highest communication service available on both computers, i.e. computers of both users. If both computers have video conferencing feature, then video-conferencing is initiated, which is the highest communication service. If there is no video-conferencing application on at least one of the computers, then the system selects another communication service, such audio, text chat or email. (Column 8, lines 3-28; Column 14, lines 15-52). Tang describes a chat room that allows workers to store and share documents, files and the like. Each chat room includes an object shelf that displays an icon or other representation of a data file (Column 3, lines 59-67). The data files located in the object shelf of a chat room are not disclosed to be media messages. In fact, those files represent documents and the like relating to the topic of discussion in the chat room.

Tang also discloses that a chat room is a place where each worker may enter utilizing communications means available to that worker. For example, if the worker only has audio communication means available, then the worker will utilize those means to communicate (Column 9, lines 22-36). Each worker has different communication capabilities in Tang.

In Tang workers communicate utilizing communication capabilities of their system. In addition, if there is a data file that needs to be shared with the co-workers, those data files may be placed on the data shelf. Nowhere, in Tang there is even suggestion of streaming media and message in an information processing system from a switching mechanism to a plurality of user nodes, the user nodes having similar

communication capabilities and receiving a plurality of unsynchronized media and message from said plurality of user nodes.

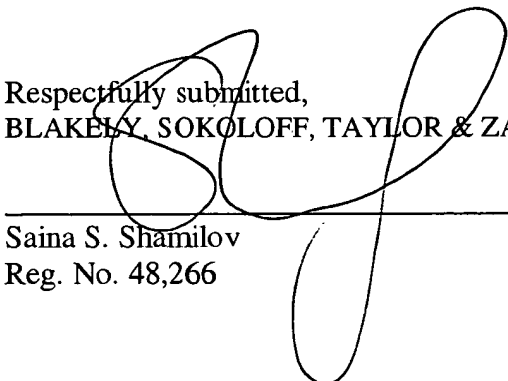
The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to combine Tang with Rekimoto to arrive at the present invention. However, the Examiner must show reasons that the skilled artisan, confronted with the same problems as the inventor and with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would invoke the use of such elements in the manner claimed. *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350, 1357 (Fed. Cir. 1998). Rekimoto teaches a virtual reality space that can be shared by unspecified users world-wide utilizing Internet technology. Tang, on the other hand, discloses a user interface to be utilized in the workgroup closed environment utilizing internal system of the organization. Thus, none of the cited references teach or suggest streaming media and messages in an information processing system from a switching mechanism to a plurality of user nodes, said user nodes having similar communication capabilities.

The Applicant submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and 103 (a) have been addressed, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested. The Applicant furthermore submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 18, 2002



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MARKED UP VERSION OF THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 1 of page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- This patent application is a continuation-in-part of coassigned copending United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/768,606, filed December 18, 1996, which is a continuation-in-part of coassigned [copending United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/722,898, filed September 27, 1996] U.S. Patent No. 5,764,916 [which are hereby fully incorporated herein by this reference thereto].--

MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A method for coordinating media and messaging operations in an information processing system, comprising the steps of:

streaming media and messages in an information processing system from a switching mechanism to a plurality of user nodes, the user nodes having similar communication capabilities;

receiving a plurality of unsynchronized media and messages from said plurality of user nodes in a synchronizer;

controlling the streaming of media and messages from said switching mechanism to said plurality of user nodes using said synchronizer[;].

7. (Amended) A system for coordinating media and messaging in an information processing system, comprising:

a plurality of user nodes associated with an information processing system, said plurality of users having the ability to communicate media and messages, said plurality of user nodes having similar communication capabilities;

a switching mechanism for streaming media and messages to said plurality of user nodes; and

a synchronizer for receiving media and messages from said plurality of user nodes and controlling said switching mechanism in response to received media and messages.

16. (Amended) A system including a computer network, comprising:

a media device;

a display device;

a computer coupled to said media device and to the computer network and for:

establishing a streaming media region on said display device;

receiving a first streaming media transmission from a first media source through the computer network and, in response thereto, causing said media device to output said first streaming media transmission;

receiving a second streaming media transmission from a second streaming media session through the computer network and, in response thereto, causing said display device to display content associated with said second streaming media transmission in said streaming media region; and

synchronizing said first streaming media transmission and said second streaming transmission for controlling the distribution of said first streaming media transmission and said second streaming media transmission[.],

wherein said computer comprises instructions and circuitry for establishing a browser region on said display device.

17. (Amended) The system of Claim 16 [wherein said computer comprises instructions and circuitry for establishing a browser region on said display device, and] wherein said streaming media region is a real time continuously open bi-directional communications chat region embedded in said browser region.

24. (Amended) A method for synchronizing the streaming of media transmission to create a message thread, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting a first base message;

(b) transmitting [zero more] second response messages and third responsive messages, [responsive to said first base message], said second response messages being hierarchically responsive to said first base message and said third responsive messages being hierarchy responsive to[or other]said second messages; and

associating with one or more of said first base message or said second response messages or said third responsive messages a predetermined streaming media transmission.